



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Ocala	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: AMY FILJONES	
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http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL FROM COCOA SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

Orlando, Florida - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that U.S. District Judge Gregory A. Presnell today sentenced Quinton Rayshawn Brooks (age 34, of Cocoa, Florida) to 15 years in federal prison for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Brooks pled guilty on August 12, 2010. According to court documents, on February 18, 2010, Brooks was driving without a valid driver's license when he was stopped by Brevard County Sheriff's Office deputies. During a search of Brooks' car, the deputies found crack cocaine, marijuana, and a loaded revolver. The loaded revolver was hidden underneath Brooks' seat. At the time of the offense, Brooks had been convicted of seven previous felonies, including multiple convictions for drug trafficking and armed robbery. As a result of those convictions, Brooks was prohibited from possessing firearms. Because of his criminal record, Brooks qualified as an Armed Career Criminal under federal sentencing statutes, which resulted in a minimum mandatory prison sentence of 15 years.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Vincent S. Chiu.

This case is being prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project

Safe Neighborhoods” - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials.

In Brevard County, State Attorney Norman R. Wolfinger is calling the initiative "Operation Cease Fire." The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.